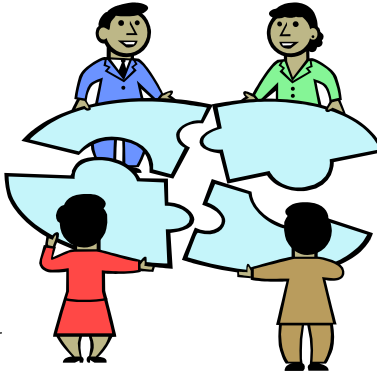


DESTINATION



IMAGINATION

September 11, 2009

Dear Parents (Guardians) of students in Grades 5 - 8:

This school year, Groton-Dunstable Regional Middle School will once again be participating in **Destination ImagiNation**. **Destination ImagiNation™** is the world's largest non-profit, volunteer-driven organization devoted to helping kids gain practical life skills through interesting, entertaining and mind-boggling challenges.

Teams of up to seven students choose their challenge and work for months developing their solution. Volunteer team managers (parents, teachers or community volunteers) facilitate the group, but cannot give technical or other assistance. Students are empowered to design, produce and present all of their own work. Teams present their solutions at regional and state tournaments, which demonstrate to teams that there are many ways to solve the same problem. High scoring teams may advance to the ultimate creativity showdown, Global Finals, held each May at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

The Destination ImagiNation™ competition has two components:

Instant Challenges teach students to respond quickly to an unplanned event by requiring them to solve a fun, surprise challenge on the spot. Teams must work together to quickly assess the situation and generate a creative response within just a few minutes.

Central Challenges require teams to utilize each member's skills in such diverse areas as art, writing, technology, performance, engineering, and music to create a unique solution that can take from several weeks to several months to develop. Students learn to work together as they practice project management skills by meeting deadlines imposed by tournament dates and completing their solution within a specified budget. Teams present their solutions before a live audience and panel of appraisers. Scoring is based on criteria specified in the challenge, which usually includes analysis of the team's innovation, risk-taking and teamwork. Teams may also choose to be non-competitive.

Massachusetts currently has over 700 teams of students (K-12) participating from over 300 schools and community groups. There are 10 regional tournaments statewide held each year in March and a State Final held at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA.

DI meetings will be held once or twice a week after school from 2:30 – 4:00 PM. **There will be one or two Saturday commitments in March and/or April.** More details will be given once we determine how many students are interested and how many teams we have.

Here is a tentative calendar of events:

November – form a team and choose a challenge.

December – meet once a week and practice problem solving and teamwork skills.

January/ February – meet twice a week to create your solution to the challenge.

March – present your solution at a FUN Tournament.

April – The top solutions in the state meet at the State Finals Tournament.

May – If your solution is the state’s best, you go to Global Finals in Tennessee!

If your child enjoys creating new things, likes to build or design new inventions, likes to paint or draw, likes to act or improvise, likes to write or compose, looks at things differently than others around him/her, Destination ImagiNation will offers a great opportunity to meet their interests!

Due to the number of teams that we can accommodate, there will be limited space available this school year. If your child would like to participate in this program, please fill out the bottom half of this form and have your child return it to his/her homeroom teacher no later than **Friday, November 12, 2008.**

Once your child signs up, we will have more information to share with you (i.e. days, times, etc).

Sincerely,
Steven M. Silverman

Principal

Student’s Name (Please Print) _____ Grade _____ HR _____

My child is interested in participating in Destination ImagiNation this school year. I am aware that there will be two Saturday commitments in March and/or April. Please send me more information.

Parental Signature